

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 15-22 and 31-38 are active. The claims have been revised to adopt the Examiner's suggested wording on page 4 of the Official Action and edits to more clearly indicate that the same individual molecule A is not bound to different solid phase supports. Other editorial revisions have been made, e.g., uniform use of the term "molecule A" without capitalization. New claims 36 and 37 are presented to describe the invention using alternative wording and find support at least on pages 10 and 12. The possibly only one kind of solid phase support of claim 36 is described on page 12, line 16 and the two or more kinds of solid phase supports in claim 37 are disclosed on page 12, lines 15-16. As specified by both of these claims, the type of ligand molecule (molecule A) specifically interacts with the target molecule (molecule B), see page 10, lines 21-22. Fig. 1 shows that once bound to a solid phase substrate, molecule A may still retain, or not, its ability to interact with molecule B depending on the site on molecule A that is bound to the solid phase. As apparent from page 10 and Fig. 1, the claims are directed to ligand molecules which are each independently bound to a solid phase support, as opposed to a single ligand molecule being simultaneously bound to two different solid phase supports. In view of the above, the Applicants do not believe that any new matter has been introduced and respectfully request an examination on the merits of the invention as described by the claims as read in light of page 10 and Fig. 1 of the specification.

Restriction/Election

The Applicants previously elected with traverse **Group III**, claims 15-22, directed to a molecule designated "A". The requirement has been made FINAL.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 15-22 and 31-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as lacking adequate written description of (first solid phase support)-molecule A-(second solid phase support). This rejection is moot since the claims specify that an individual molecule A is not bound to both (or for claim 35 all three) solid phase supports.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 15-22 and 31-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is moot in view of the amendments above.

Prior Art

The Applicants thank Examiner Nguyen for indicating that the claims are free of the prior art.

Conclusion

This application presents allowable subject matter and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass it to issue. The Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned should a further discussion of the issues or claims be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

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